

# In the Court of Appeals of the State of Alaska

**Wyatt Redfox,**

Petitioner,

v.

**State of Alaska,**

Respondent.

Court of Appeals No. **A-13746**

## **Order**

Motion to Seal Petition for Review

Date of Order: **1/4/2021**

Trial Court Case No. **3AN-20-05703CR**

The Petitioner, Wyatt Redfox, representing himself, has filed a petition for review. He recently requested that this petition be sealed in order to protect an alleged victim. According to Redfox, this person's name appears in the trial court file. Redfox also requests that Superior Court Judge Catherine M. Easter's order — that is, one of the superior court orders he is asking this Court to review — be sealed.

The State of Alaska has a strong commitment to ensuring broad public access to government records. Consequently, as a general matter, a record on appeal is open to public inspection, except for those papers and exhibits ordered sealed or confidential in the trial court. Likewise, if not ordered sealed or confidential by the trial court, papers filed in the appellate courts are open to public inspection, unless the appellate court orders otherwise. A litigant seeking to seal otherwise public records has the burden of justifying his request — that is, the burden of showing good cause for sealing those records.

That said, because this Court has not yet ruled on Redfox's request to review the superior court orders at issue, the appellate record contains only the party's pleadings and the audio recordings of two hearings. Because there is nothing in the current appellate record containing information about the alleged victims in this case,

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there is no good cause at this time for sealing any portion of the proceeding. Therefore, the request to seal the current petition is **DENIED**.

The request to seal Judge Easter's order is also **DENIED**. Because of Alaska's strong commitment to ensuring broad public access to government records, a judicial order issued or filed in open court in a criminal proceeding is presumptively open to public inspection. Redfox has not demonstrated good cause for sealing Judge Easter's order denying his request that she disqualify herself for cause.

Entered under the authority of Chief Judge Allard.

Clerk of the Appellate Courts



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Carly Williams, Deputy Clerk

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